

# THE IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

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## NOTES

Mr. T. W. Russell, Minister of Agriculture of the approved kind in Ireland, went to a "tillage meeting" in Sligo recently. Rev. M. O'Flanagan, Cliffoey, spoke in the ministerial presence, to the effect that on the matter of agricultural produce Ireland ought to be able to supply her own wants and produce a large surplus. This result, he said, could not be achieved "by going round the country summoning meetings and making speeches." He advocated that some of the money demanded of the people in taxes should be spent on the restoration of Irish agriculture. "The Congested Districts Board informs us," he said, "that a Treasury that is spending £5,000,000 a day upon the war must economise by withdrawing the beggarly mite that has been doled out to the Board. Is it then going too far to ask whether this is a real tillage movement or only a sham tillage movement?"

"When it comes to England and Ireland starving, Ireland will have to starve first. Even though a famine appears in Ireland, England will go on with the war and allow Ireland to starve. When the famine reaches England, England will make peace. . . . There is one remedy in our own hands. Stick to the oats (hear, hear, and applause). If we have only enough wheat to give us bread for five weeks of the year, we have oats enough to give us better bread for the whole year round (applause). The famine of 1847 would never have been written across the pages of Irish history, if the men of that day were men enough to risk death rather than part with their oat crop. Let each farmer keep at least enough oats on hand to carry himself and his family through in case of necessity till next year's harvest. And if any Government dares to commandeer your oats, remember that it is better to die like men fighting for your rights than to

starve like our poor misguided grandfathers seventy years ago" (loud applause).

The orthodox British Minister of orthodox Irish agriculture waxed wrathful in his righteousness and declared that the priest's statement and advice were only "play-acting."

At a meeting in Dublin a few days later, Rev. T. A. Finlay, S.J., said: "Prolonged experience had taught them the real means of promoting the country's agricultural prosperity, and they had very little to learn in that respect from the casual occupier of a position of public authority."

It is well that there are men in Ireland to whom the people can look for honest advice and who take the question of the Nation's future more seriously than it is likely to be taken by the British Treasury or the casual official. Nobody knows what the consequences of this war of Empires will be, but people are beginning to see that they will not be the consequences that imperial statesmen and politicians are hoping for. Ireland's duty, no matter what any talkers in tight places may say, is to take care of herself, and to face the new world as strong in purpose, in men, and in resources as she can keep and make herself.

We are under a Censorship which has a special care for America. The only sort of information that it allows to get from Ireland to America or from America to Ireland is the sort that is agreeable to our benevolent Government. It is under these circumstances that a statement alleged to have been made by Mr. John Redmond has been sent for publication in America and sent from America for publication in Ireland. Readers should therefore be on their guard about the authenticity of this statement, lest it prove to be a malicious invention put forth by Mr. Redmond's worst enemies,

whoever they may be. Mr. Redmond's advice, given not many years ago, is on record: "Trust no British Government, and keep your powder dry."

Here is the statement attributed now to Mr. Redmond and passed for publication by the Government Censorship: "Ireland is in a state of profound peace. No meetings are suppressed or have been suppressed. Freedom of speech has not been interfered with. Three or four men have been imprisoned for short terms for open pro-German declarations, for which in similar cases they would have been shot in Germany. Indeed, my only regret is that these men were lifted out of their obscurity by being prosecuted, as they were incapable of doing any real harm."

As this is evidently an attempt to whitewash the Government which broke its pledges to Mr. Redmond, and the succeeding Coalition Government which is under no pledges to Mr. Redmond, it is best treated as a British Government pronouncement of a "diplomatic" character. The pronouncement is incomplete.

A proverbially grateful and faithful Government would appreciate some such more ample statement as the following: "Ireland is not alone profoundly peaceful, but profoundly satisfied and happy. No meetings are suppressed or have been suppressed. A meeting to be held in Sligo by Mr. Redmond's supporters was not suppressed because it was not held. Many other meetings were not suppressed for the same reason. Large bodies of armed police have been sent actually to take part in popular demonstrations, as a proof of the complete harmony between the Government and the people. Certain journals have ceased publication, in proof of their heartfelt desire to comply with the wishes of the Government. So perfect is the unity of sentiment, that even those outcasts of society, the burglars, have joined hands with the Government in the administration of Irish affairs."



The statement about the imprisoned men might appear to have reference to the Irish Volunteer prisoners, but since in their case it would be absolutely false, a scrupulously honourable Government would not allow it to be attributed to a scrupulously honourable supporter like Mr. Redmond. It must therefore be understood to have reference to such men as the Arklow fisherman who was knocked down and kicked by English seamen in Cahirciveen and was then sent to jail on the evidence of the same seamen for an open pro-German declaration.

At the same time, any newspaper which prints Mr. Redmond's alleged statement so as to leave readers under the impression that the reference is to the Irish Volunteers has no due regard for Mr. Redmond's honour. For Mr. Redmond is well aware that no charge was preferred against the imprisoned Volunteers except the charge of refusing to leave Ireland at the command of the competent military authorities who preside over the Profound Peace. Moreover, nobody who wished Mr. Redmond to be regarded as an Irishman of spirit and honour, and not as a puppet of an English Government, would put into Mr. Redmond's mouth the suggestion that the Government had dealt too leniently with the imprisoned Volunteers. The pronouncement seems to prepare the way for the new legislation of the English Privy Council, which provides that, in future, obnoxious Irishmen, instead of being "lifted out of their obscurity by being prosecuted," will just be dragged out of Ireland.

The saying that "the position of Home Rule is absolutely secure" sounds like Mr. Redmond. It certainly has not been said by any member of the Government. We do not hear it from the Liberals, much less from the Unionists. It may sound well in America, but it has lost its popularity in Ireland. The Irish people know that if the Government could only realise its intentions towards the Irish Volunteers, the last security for Home Rule would have disappeared.

The Irish Party has not been allowed to make any stand for Irish rights in the matter of taxation. On the second reading of the Budget, Mr. Dillon repeated his pitiful declaration about Ireland being prepared to bear her proper share—a declaration for which Mr. Dillon has no warrant from Ireland. Already, before the imposition of the new Budget taxation, Ireland has been compelled—not invited—to pay in a few months over £1,000,000 of increased war taxes, and grants for many purposes have at the same time been withdrawn. The new taxes will amount to many millions from Ireland. What matter? The "great gamble" must go on.

## Lectures for Section Commanders

### III. DRILL.

There appear to be two Schools of Thought among Volunteer strategists at present, which may be called the Pro-Drill School, and the Anti-Drill School. I will say at once that I consider that those who say that Drill is useless are talking nonsense. Drill is essential to Discipline, and Discipline is essential to an army. The best parade army in Europe is at the present moment proving itself the best fighting army. Therefore let every Section Commander in the Volunteers see to it that his section does its drill efficiently, and he will find that he will have no difficulty in handling it in the field later on.

In the first place, insist on **smartness** in carrying out an order. When you say "fall in" don't allow your men to stroll into their places chatting and smoking. All talking should cease and all smokes should be extinguished the moment the command is heard, and the men should double to their places. When you have got your men to do this as a habit you will have gone a long way towards making them soldiers.

In the ranks, get the men to take up their dressing and stand at ease as a matter of course, and while you are drilling them never pass over any slackness whatever. If a command is obeyed in a slovenly manner always make a point of giving "as you were" and repeating it. Your men will take care to do the thing right if they know that otherwise they will have to do it again.

If you find your men persistently slack or disobedient don't hesitate to pitch into them. That's your prerogative. The men won't take it in bad part. They have joined the Volunteers in order to forward a cause in which they must expect hard knocks, and, moreover, these particular hard knocks are given for the sake of the cause. They are not personal. It may be necessary to explain this in the case of recruits.

Take these few words to heart, Section Commanders. Heed not the bickerings of rival schools, and remember that your business is to turn your men out soldiers.

### FOURTH BATTALION, DUBLIN.

All officers and men of the Fourth Battalion, excepting those specially exempted, will assemble at Larkfield, Kimmage, on Sunday, the 24th inst., at 3 p.m., when the Battalion will be inspected by the Commandant-General. Full equipment to be carried. Dismiss about 6 p.m.

EAMONN CEARNT.

## Cumann na mBan

The annual Convention of Cumann na mBan will be held at 2 Dawson Street, Dublin, on the morning of Sunday, Oct. 31st., the day of the Volunteers' Convention. All Branches should be represented at the Convention, and are being invited to send up delegates to take part in the discussions on the Association's activities. A new Executive will be elected for the coming year, and various questions of interest will be debated—such as the amount of direction that it is desirable for the Executive to give to Branches, the demand for new activities, and value of those suggested, the details of a scheme for attaching a Cumann na mBan Voluntary Aid Squad to each Volunteer Corps, etc. Branches have been invited to send in nominations for Executive and notices of motion. It is hoped that this second Convention, while exceeding last year's gathering in numbers, and so showing the progress which the Association has made in the country, will be no less enthusiastic in its spirit, and will prove a source of mutual encouragement to the different Branches represented and to the Executive which they elect.

All Branches should take this opportunity of putting themselves in touch with the Headquarters of the movement, and of learning through their delegate what are the activities of the various centres. New Branches are constantly springing up and can learn much from each other. The latest comers into the organisation are an enthusiastic group of Castlebar women who have just formed a most promising Branch, and are already hard at work with First Aid classes, besides planning various other activities for the near future. A neighbouring group in Westport are also about to form a Branch, and applications have reached the Hon. Secretaries from several places in the South, where the number of new Branches is already very encouraging.

### VERY IMPORTANT.

#### 4th BATT. I.V.

The above Batt. are holding a Shooting Competition at Kimmage on Sunday, the 24th October, starting at 11 a.m. All Volunteers who entered on July the 4th can come along, as the Competition was postponed on that date. Entrance fee 6d. A valuable prize will be offered.

LIEUT. KENNY,  
Quartermaster.

Your chance to secure one of my famous Cycles, all prices reduced, Repairs to Cycles, Motors, Small Cars, etc., at D. T. O'Sullivan's Cycle and Motor Cycle Garage, Cook Street, Cork.



## Defending the Realm

Alfred Monahan, Irish Volunteer Organiser, was ordered last week to leave County Cavan, where he was engaged in organising. He continued to do his work in Cavan, with the result that he was arrested last Saturday and carried off to Belfast, and there lodged in jail. The further proceedings against him were unknown at the hour of this writing. On Monday Desmond Fitzgerald was arrested and shut up in Mountjoy Prison, Dublin. He had previously been deported from Kerry, as readers of this paper will remember. We now see the value that Dublin Castle attaches to resolutions and letters from the Irish Party and its leaders, and, on the other hand, we see how rapidly the Castle takes advantage of such whitewashing and justifying statements as Mr. Redmond is reported to have made in an interview with an American journalist. I would remind readers that there may be some of them and some of their acquaintances who recognise the outrageous character of the Castle Campaign against the Irish Volunteers, but who have not yet subscribed to the Irish Volunteer Prisoners' Defence Fund.

## Communications

The Director of Communications wishes to impress upon all officers commanding local units the necessity of being closely in touch with the nearest corps to their districts. Certain specified Volunteers provided with bicycles or motors should be appointed messengers or despatch riders. It becomes the duty of such a messenger to be personally familiar with the location of the responsible officers in the next districts. He must know the occupation and general habits of such responsible officers so as to be in a position to find them readily by night or day.

A rough sketch map including some prominent object such as a police barrack and the house required to be found would greatly assist.

Where a verbal message has to be transmitted the despatch rider should deliver it personally to the officer named. Where the message is written he may entrust it, unless otherwise ordered, to a reliable member of the neighbouring corps. The latter person will then carry the despatch to the officer named.

For purposes of ordinary communications a local arrangement is recommended by which a despatch rider proceeding from district A to district B goes always to an agreed-upon shop in dis-

trict B, and leaves his despatch with the person in such shop on the distinct understanding that the shopman will at once find local means of conveying the despatch to the officer to whom it is addressed. This plan has several advantages. It saves the rider, who may have come many miles, time and energy. It gives him at all times a definite objective, as against having to find at one time one officer, at another time another officer. The shopman should be entirely trustworthy, and have a keen idea of the value of time.

A careful despatch rider will take a receipt for his despatch from the person to whom he delivers it. The receipt should give the date and hour. A person receiving a despatch should note the date and hour of receiving it.

To avoid disappointments envelopes should be marked:—"To be delivered not later than.....," giving date and hour. Failing this precaution a despatch may be so delayed as to be quite useless on reaching its destination.

It should not be possible for hostile persons to hoax Volunteer officers with bogus messages, as has happened in at least one instance. By avoiding the use of his Britannic Majesty's Post Office this danger is reduced to a minimum. In Dublin there is a complete boycott of the Post Office as far as inter-Company communications are concerned.

A number of Companies have already come directly and unexpectedly into touch with Headquarters. Other Companies are advised to be on the qui vive and to carry out accurately any task which may be set them through the medium of the new communication scheme.

Companies which are in a position to communicate directly and speedily with Headquarters are requested to take the Director of Communications into their confidence, with a view to the employment of the same means for the sending from Dublin of despatches intended for such Companies or for adjoining Companies.

## The Movement in Cork

The organisation of Cork proceeds apace. On Sunday north, south, west men were active drilling, carrying out field work, and organising. Along the line due east from the city there seems to be apathy at the moment. But north-east and south-east are doing well. What have our friends in Middleton and Cove to say? If anyone wants advice let him drop a line to Headquarters at Cork (Sheares' Street) and help will be forthcoming.

Excellent field work was carried out by a company from the City Battalion on Sunday. Slackers were absent, of course,

of which more later. If this made for the general searching of hearts and consciences, it also made for excellence in the day's work: for the slackers are always the incompetents, and the men present at roll-call were of the very best; and the work done was consequently of the very best. The company returned better pleased with the day's operations.

West,—the Macroom men met on Sunday. They are getting into their stride and will have much to chronicle later. The district all round is stirring and promises to be worthy of the traditions of the west—"Ireland first, and Ireland last, and Ireland over all." South-west, Dunmanway has moved into line, and Skibbereen is looking up, and the country in between is taking fire. Across in the south-east the Ballinadee men not only keep together, but are carrying the light into the adjacent districts. When the time comes, whoever fail, the Ballinadee boys will be there. In Cloghagh they are holding their ground notwithstanding the intimidation of the astonished enemy, who expect the mere Irish to lie down. But how could the district of Tadg-an-Osua fail? The Ballinspittle men, after a temporary upset, due to harvesting, are again taking the work in hand, and the Kinsale men are keeping touch.

North-east, on Sunday a very satisfactory organising run was made to Rathcormac by a cyclist section from Cork City. At Rathcormac a junction was effected with cyclist sections from Mitchelstown and Fermoy, and some men from Castletyons came to get help in organising their district. There was a parade through the village of the joint units headed by a piper. A halt was called at the Green, and a short address was given by Commandant MacCurtain. Local interest was aroused, and one or two local men undertook to see to arrangements for Rathcormac, which is now about to fall into line. The parade was then called to attention, and after another march through, the dismissal was given at the outskirts of the village. The separate contingents then made for home.

A point for cyclists. Excellent work was done on Sunday by the Cork section in exploring the bye-roads. They worked along parallel roads, keeping touch across the bye-roads, their examination discovering one very useful bye-road not on the map. Little discoveries of value like this will be made when sections of cyclists are trained specially for cyclist work. Every Company of Volunteers should look to it. Another general rule for the cyclist: Never take to the train merely to save yourself the trouble of cycling 30 or 40 miles.

To all interested: Anyone in a district where there is at present no activity and anxious to get in touch with the movement, is asked to write to Headquarters, Sheares' Street, Cork.





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## The Irish Volunteer

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1915.

## Headquarters Bulletin

Tionóil do bí ag Comhairle Shnáca Féinne  
Fait ina nDánpórt tréadóna D. Céadóin,  
an 13ú Lú na n-í mí ro, agus an tOide Eoin  
Mac Néill, Uachtarán, ina eataoirleas  
oíche.

Do léisead agus do ríorúigead tuar-  
arsdála an éiríais Oronúige, Oileanna,  
Armála, Uorcuíste, Feara, agus úiríro.

Do príoc cunnair ar éirísead na  
hoibre i gComnatactí Conaige, Cille  
Connig, Cille Dara, Áca Cluac, na Míro,  
agus an Cábáin.

Do príoc ríseal go raib luic ceannuir  
áirim Sapan i nÉirinn car éir fógarta  
o'Ánc Ó Muineacáin, tuine de éimírib  
na Comhairle, imteacé ar Co. an Cábáin.

Do rinnead viorpóirísead an ceircean-

naib báinear leir an gComóat agus do  
rocuígead a lán neite ina oíche.

Do ceapad an éiríneacáin agus ar  
vialaib do éiríne i n-áiceannab áiríse  
agus an ceactaírib do éir ag éirí oíche.

Dánpórt na Féinne,

Áca Cluac, 13 D. Fós, 1915.

[TRANSLATION.]

The Central Executive of the Irish  
Volunteers met at Headquarters on Wed-  
nesday evening, 13th inst., Professor  
Eoin Mac Néill, President, in the chair.

Reports on the departments of Organ-  
isation, Training, Arming, Recruiting,  
Communications, and Finance were sub-  
mitted and dealt with.

Accounts of the progress of the move-  
ment were received from Counties Cork,  
Kilkenny, Kildare, Dublin, Meath, and  
Cavan.

It was noted that Mr. A. Monaghan,  
one of the Headquarters Organisers, had  
been served with a deportation order by  
the competent military authority.

A discussion took place on matters con-  
nected with the Convention, and various  
points arising were decided.

Arrangements were made for forth-  
coming meetings and conferences and for  
the sending of representatives thereto.

Headquarters, 2 Dawson Street,  
Dublin, 13th October, 1915.

### UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT.

The following regulations, consoli-  
dating and supplementing previous regu-  
lations on the subject of Uniforms and  
Equipment, come into force as from this  
date:

1. Uniform is not compulsory for Irish  
Volunteers, but it is desirable, especially  
in the case of officers.

2. Uniform will consist of tunic,  
breeches, puttees, and cap, of the ap-  
proved design, in the approved green  
heather tweed, with dark green shoulder  
straps and cuffs. (Leggings may be  
substituted for puttees at option.)

3. All buttons will be dark green com-  
pressed leather. (Volunteers who have  
already brass buttons may have such but-  
tons oxydised dark green in lieu of get-  
ting regulation buttons.) Shiny buttons,  
marks of rank, cap-peaks, or other shiny  
objects, are not to be worn.

4. Rank will be distinguished as  
follows:

Squad Commander: One dark  
green stripe,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. by 3 in., on left  
breast of tunic.

Section Commander: Two such  
stripes.

Coy. Adjutant: Three such stripes.

2nd Lieutenant: One trefoil and  
one band in dark green on cuff.

1st Lieutenant: Two trefoils and  
one band on cuff.

Captain: Three trefoils and two  
bands on cuff.

Vice Commandant: One wheeled  
cross and three bands on cuff.

Commandant: Two wheeled crosses  
and three bands on cuff.

Vice-Commandant-General: Two  
wheeled crosses and four bands on  
cuff.

Commandant-General: Three  
wheeled crosses and four bands on  
cuff.

Batt. Adjutants and Quartermas-  
ters: As Captains, Brigade Adju-  
tants and Chiefs of Engineering,  
Transport and Supply, and Com-  
munications: as Commandants, Sur-  
geons. First Aid and Ambulance:  
Red cross on arm (in addition to  
usual marks of rank).

Staff Officers: Dark green band  
with old gold bead on cap, and old  
gold gorget on lapel of tunic.

5. For Field Equipment of Officers and  
Men see Orders of 30th February, 1915.

6. For Field Equipment for Coys. see  
Orders of 17th Feb., 1915.

P. H. PEARSE,

Commandant,

Director of Organisation.

Headquarters, 2 Dawson Street,

Dublin, 13th October, 1915.

### NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

SÁIL AR AR OÍ.

Tuair de'n ceactar do cuinead i  
bporáin mar seall ar beir ag bporúgá  
Saebeal cum out ra bfeinn, tá ríseacé  
leo car éir náite i bporáin vóir, agus  
íad ag obair go vóiceallac áirí. Má tá,  
tá ceann áirim Sapan i nÉirinn car éir a  
fógarta o'Ánc Ó Muineacáin, tuine eile  
vóir luic bporúgá, imteacé leir ar Co.  
an Cábáin. Ní fábá a ráo nae n-imteacé-  
aró. Vóir ar Sallab Fianna Fáil te óile  
do vóir car náite rú cuinear ríad cós  
leir an obair acá vóir bámaib agáin.

### ceannuístear sunnai.

Ná comeatáir vóiríse an méir áiríro  
do báirísead i rú na reactháine ro do  
fáb capáin. Carcear ar sunnai agus  
ar uncúaró é. Tá sunnai le págáil i  
gcomnatactí. Níor éiríse le Sallab cós  
do éir te n-a vóiríseacé rísead go póil,  
bá náirísead an ríseal é vóiríseacé an lú  
a mbéad sunnai de vóir óiríne, agus áirí-  
sead i n-áiríseacé agáin agus fán na  
sunnai le págáil. Anóir an c-am cum a  
bporú ag ceactáir usáin vóiríseacé. Ní  
vóiríseacé páiríge.

### THE WORK GOES ON.

When our organisers were sent to  
prison three months ago for refusing to  
banish themselves from Ireland, we wrote  
here that the business of organising the  
Irish Volunteers would go on as usual.  
It has gone on as usual; or, to be strictly  
accurate, it has gone on at precisely  
twice the usual velocity. For every  
organiser sent to prison we placed two on  
the road. Liam Mellows, Ernest Blythe,  
and Herbert Pim are now ready for work  
again. When they start on their rounds  
they will find on an average two active  
Companies where there was only one



three months ago; and in many districts they will find organisation and training in a very much more forward state. One of the new organisers who have helped us to achieve this result, Alfred Monaghan, has now received a deportation order from the competent military authority. He has of course refused to obey it, and has been arrested. If Mr. Monaghan is imprisoned or forcibly deported, we will replace him not by one, but by two, good men. We are receiving such encouragement from the competent military authority that our organising staff is increasing in a geometrical progression. Whatever may be the prospects of the other recruiting campaign, ours is in a most healthy state. Credit should be given where credit is due, and some little portion of the credit of this is due to Major-General Friend.

#### WHAT TO DO WITH THE MONEY.

We are not able to impose war taxation, but we have always our Defence of Ireland Fund. A considerable sum is now in the hands of local treasurers and quartermasters as the result of last week's collection. The business of the local treasurers and quartermasters is to get rid of it as soon as possible, replacing it by arms and ammunition. It must not be locked up in banks; it must be spent on munitions, and spent at once. Any Company or Battalion with a bank balance to its credit should be ashamed of itself. We have no business with bank balances, but we have business with guns and ammunition. Good serviceable weapons are at the disposal of every Volunteer Company that can pay cash down. And every Volunteer Company that is worth its salt will have something after the Defence of Ireland Week, even if it be only a five-pound note. One gun in a district is better than no gun.

#### KEEP TRAINING.

Excellent progress is being made in training in a great many districts. The organisers, on revisiting a district after some months, are often able to report a very high standard of efficiency attained since their previous visit. A case in point is Co. Kilkenny, from which an organiser reports that recent operations there showed a marked advance on previous work and were, in fact, among the most soldierly pieces of work he has yet seen carried out by Irish Volunteers. The point for Companies to remember is that they must keep up their training just as regularly in the absence of the organisers as when they are in the district. Training is what tells, and training, to be of any use at all, must be continuous. A modest programme, confined to the essentials, if steadily carried out, will produce much better results than an ambitious programme worked at spasmodically. And the essentials, as we so often repeat, are marching, scouting, and shooting.

## A MILITARY CAUSERIE

### THINKING IN ARMY GROUPS—THE COMMUNICATIONS FAD—AND OTHER NOTES.

It is surprising to see what obvious and self-evident facts are unobserved by the civilian mind, and still more so to see what escapes the observation of the half-trained soldier. The civilian, or raw Volunteer, is ignorant of the fact that a man occupies about a yard of ground, while the fairly advanced Volunteer, who knows this quite well, would be quite surprised if I told him that two hundred men will occupy two hundred yards.

This observation is the result of my presence in various capacities at numerous Volunteer manoeuvres. I find that a Volunteer officer who is placed in independent command of a force consisting of a number of units, however few or however small the units may be, comes to regard the force as an army, or even as an army group, and expects it to do the work of an army. Hence we see the commander of a hundred men, endeavouring to defend a front of a mile or so, ordering A. Company to do this, and C. Company to do that in the style of a Hindenburg detailing off a couple of armies to capture Riga.

There are fair excuses for this. We are inclined to regard our units as unalterable entities, whereas our "Companies" are very often little larger than sections, and our "Battalions" rarely exceed the normal strength of a couple of companies. And so commanders, ignoring these conditions, order two hundred men to do a battalion's work, and attempt operations far too ambitious either for their own abilities or the strength of their forces.

The remedy is simple. When the three battalions assigned to you turn up four hundred strong, don't attempt to occupy Leinster. Content yourself with simple operations on a quarter-mile front, and you and your men will learn something. Also, don't leave your men in companies of twelve and battalions ranging from thirty to a hundred and fifty. Form four new companies, and divide them up into sections, appointing each unit its commander. Otherwise there will be endless confusion. These remarks, by the way, apply to all commanders of independent units from squad leaders to Brigadiers.

This thinking in army groups is the cause of another symptom I have observed in our officers. I call it Communications fad. When we regard each section as an army corps we think with concern of the

vast spaces between their spheres of operations, and expend a lot of energy and men in keeping them in touch. We are inclined to forget the fighting in keeping our communications.

The result is that a Volunteer "Brigade" advancing to the attack consists of scattered bodies of a couple of dozen or so linked up by chains of scouts.

With this formation it is of course impossible to achieve anything. A small striking force detached from the enemy could pierce the line anywhere, and all the communications in the world would then be of no use. No. Think of your sections as sections, manoeuvre them over a limited extent of ground, and you will find no difficulty about communications. The co-ordination of small units in an attack is not difficult, and should be left to the commanders of these units. When you have got your armies you can think about grouping them.

I finish with a word to minor officers—captains, lieutenants, and section commanders. Don't let what I have said make you allow your men to slacken in scouting, but use their scouting to better purpose. Their chief business is to find the enemy. Remember that the chief stress of co-ordination in attack falls on you. If you are assigned a fair extent of ground to cover you are responsible for keeping touch with the units on each side of you. This is not very hard provided you keep your wits about you.

If you are expected to cover a mile or so with your section my advice to you is: Act independently and let Communications be damned. E. O'D.

#### THE MITCHEL CENTENARY.

The centenary of the birth of John Mitchel will be commemorated on Thursday evening, 4th November, in the Antient Concert Rooms, Great Brunswick Street, by a Lecture and Concert. The Committee have been successful in securing the services of Commandant P. H. Pearse, B.A., B.L., to deliver the anniversary oration, and the Chairman on the occasion will be Mr. Arthur Griffith. The musical programme will be in the capable hands of Mr. Gerard Crofts. The Executive of the Irish Volunteers have been communicated with, with a view to making this date a closed one in Volunteer circles in Dublin, so that the rally in the Antient Concert Rooms on the 4th November will be a record and an historic one. Tickets—1s. and 6d.—may be had on application to Hon. Sec., 6 Harcourt Street, Dublin, or at any of the Irish-Ireland shops in the city.



## Irish Volunteer Convention

Delegates to the second Irish Volunteer Convention will assemble at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Sunday, 31st October, at 10.30 a.m.

Business will commence at 11 sharp.

Any Corps entitled to be represented which has not received card of admission for its delegate should write immediately to the Hon. Sec. at Headquarters.

### IRISH VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE.

As many Volunteers will be travelling to Dublin on Sunday next, 24th October, it has been decided to hold a Conference of Irish Volunteers at Headquarters, 2 Dawson Street, between the hours of 3 and 6 o'clock. Several members of the Executive Committee will be present, and all Volunteers visiting Dublin on that date are invited to attend.

## Correspondence Column

### NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

1. This column is for the purpose of answering military questions such as come outside the scope of the Drill Book.
2. Questions must be written briefly and clearly on notepaper or foolscap.
3. Questions sent in before Friday will be answered the following week.
4. Initials or pseudonyms are to be given, and the full name and address (or company, battalion and regiment) of the correspondent are to be enclosed, not for publication.

**X.Y.Z.**—The modern high-power rifle bullet will penetrate 38 inches of oak.

**Anxious.**—In Ireland artillery is not such a powerful enemy as you think, owing to the nature of the country. For full information on this subject consult our back numbers.

**L. B.**—This column is for questions, not suggestions. Your suggestions might be very useful if sent to the right quarter. We ourselves have no voice in the matter, but will forward them to those who have.

**Section Commander.**—You will get all the information you want in the British Infantry Handbook.

**F. F. K.**—Of course a bayonet is essential. The present war has shown this over and over again. The idea that all fighting would be at a range of 2,000 yards was long ago exploded. Anyhow, can you always hit your man at 2,000 yards?

**W. W. W.**—Houses should not be occupied under artillery fire. They should first be prepared for defence, and while the bombardment goes on the defenders should be entrenched either in cover trenches behind or in fire trenches in front.

Put the house in a state of defence by making a clear field of fire, barricading the entrances by means of chests or boxes filled with earth, bricks, galvanised iron from a roof, sand-bags, etc., and by loop-holing the walls and barricades, erecting obstacles, etc. Fill every available vessel with water, put food and ammunition in suitable places, and choose a safe position for the wounded.

As regards loop-holes, see that they are at least 6 feet from the ground so as to be useless to the enemy. If they are higher still, your own men may have to stand on chairs or boxes to reach them.

**A. D.**—See Rule 2.

## AN OBJECT-LESSON IN NIGHT COMBAT FOR PATROLS.

A recent despatch from Capt. Bean from the Gallipoli theatre of war is full of useful instruction in the conduct of night operations. He describes the method adopted in an advance into the Sari Bair foot-hills which exemplified the use of many of the most approved principles for such enterprises.

**"The work was to be done in silence and with bayonets only so long as the darkness lasted."** This is a rule that should never be broken, and a considerable amount of training is needed to impress it on the men. On the occasion referred to one battalion cheered—getting somewhat out of hand apparently. To prevent this strict discipline and plenty of practice are required. Firing may, of course, be prevented by inspecting arms to see that no timid soldier has loaded his piece, and by moving with bayonets fixed.

The following desperate bit of work was carried out on both sides in such a way as to be a model for the conduct of such encounters—when the Point of the advance guard came suddenly on a Turkish Patrol: "The Turks clearly thought that our men were the usual New Zealand patrol out on its nightly business. They did not want to make a disturbance in the night any more than we did, so they came for our men with the bayonet. There was no sound in that strange duel, just four men fighting four with their bayonets in the dark. The Turks bayoneted one of our men in the jaw and another in the chest—neither fatally—before our four had managed to kill them. **There was not a shot fired, and the column went silently on.**"

Only the last sentence has been underlined, but every other line of the paragraph is important too. The last only sets forth the result gained by the silent little fight—the **unnoticed advance of the column.** One detail deserves further notice: a New Zealander was wounded in the jaw. This means that a Turkish soldier must have thrust at the head, which is a mistake at night. It is a smaller mark, and there is a better chance of seeing to parry it. At night the target for the bayonet is the middle of the body. If awaiting a rush it is best to kneel and rise as the opponent comes against the sky background. O.C.

## The Crossmaglen Conspiracy

(Continued.)

### THE CASTLE PRESS PREPARATIONS.

Though most of the materials, both fact and fancy, of the more remote as well as of the immediate past of the locality, were still to be retained and utilised in this new plot, yet all was to be transformed and expanded into a brand-new murder society to be named the Patriotic Brotherhood, specially manufactured for Dublin Castle by its trained artists. And though this Castle conspiracy was to have its local habitation and its name and brief existence in and from Crossmaglen,—for, according to the Crown, the Brotherhood was widespread in Ireland and out of it, yet after the Crown had secured its Crossmaglen victims, the existence of the Brotherhood before since or elsewhere ceased to be heard of,—it was, however, to assume for the purpose national dimensions and national importance from the fact that it was to involve in crime, if not to embrace in membership, the whole Irish Land League, with Parnell and his Parliamentary Party, in a vast though bogus confederacy of dynamite and bloodcurdling murder conspiracies. A superabundance of journalistic, legal, and judicial proofs of this will appear as we proceed.

Here, under the Liberal Government of Gladstone and Forster, we can see how Dublin Castle was kept drilled and exercised in the tactics which a few years later, under the able command of Mr. Balfour, resulted in the grand campaign of "Parnellism and Crime." The true history of the Crossmaglen Conspiracy is fully known in Dublin Castle, and accordingly the whole episode was suppressed by the officials who worked up the later case for Mr. Balfour and the "Times."

But why, it may be asked, did these shrewd and inventive Dublin Castle artificers, from the Crown lawyers down through the police officers, the Castle pressmen, and the informer,—why did they agree to select Crossmaglen, a small country town, as the centre and starting point for such vast operations as we shall see they originally planned? For, until disaster after disaster overtook and finally overwhelmed them in this case, and then no longer, these worthies had ramifications (on paper of course) of this great dynamite and murder conspiracy all over Ireland, and in the towns and cities of England and Scotland. The Government itself, through its lawyers, its police officers, its newspapers, its forged documents, and its informer, will prove all this for us at the trials in Belfast and in their sequel.

No doubt what we have already seen about Crossmaglen had much, if not

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most, to do with its choice as the scene of these operations. The spread of the land war to Ulster and the union of Protestants with Catholics in Ulster were enough to drive any right-minded Government to the extreme uses of the resources of civilisation. But Crossmaglen was suitable for other reasons. It lay in a district which had been specially singled out and declared "unenviably notorious" in that farrao of fictions known as Trench's "Realities of Irish Life." Though Trench's groundless fabrications and utter perversions of fact had been fully exposed at the time of publication by the late Canon Smollen, of Enniskillen, and by that great and patriotic Irish lawyer and tribune, Isaac Butt, this work for twelve or fifteen years had a most extraordinary circulation and attained the highest popularity among English readers and the "Garrison" faction in Ireland as a classic and acceptable delineation of Irish life, consisting mainly of course of crimes, outrages, and secret societies, especially typified in the condition of the adjoining districts of Crossmaglen and Farney. An examination of the evidence of the Crossmaglen informer and of the documents known as the Crossmaglen and Mullaghbawn Books, produced (in more than one sense by the Crown in this case) will reveal that the Crown case was mainly concocted out of the earlier concoctions of Trench.

A full exposure of the Trench fabrications regarding the Farney district will follow in due course. The Trench tradition has been ably maintained in our own time, and Trench strategy may be regarded as an established feature of the war in Ireland.

Though Trench's fictions are years older than the Crossmaglen fabrications, the same incidents, with slight transformations, are found in both, and even phrases and expressions in the later production are taken directly from Trench.

There were other convenient reasons for laying the scene at Crossmaglen. During the land struggles of the past and in the landlord interest, Crossmaglen had been painted black to the more Protestant districts of North-eastern Ulster; these struggles being sedulously represented there as a kind of sectarian warfare against unoffending Protestants. Nor, like the memories of Dolly's Brae and the like, which have served so well in the North-east to keep Protestants and Catholics asunder, did those interested in the mischief, whether landlords, capitalists, or Castle instruments, allow this

reputation and these bitter feelings to die out. It suited their policy of "divide et impera" to keep them alive. From time to time, therefore, the amenable Press wrote up the accepted history of Crossmaglen, concealing, of course, as in the case of Dolly's Brae, the fact that landlord tyranny, and not sectarian rancour, had provoked in former times, if it did not justify, the retaliation of those who were denied all other remedy. There was always the suggestion that such perverted history represented still the normal state of the locality of Crossmaglen.

(To be continued.)

## Seachtmáin na Samhna.

### IRISH REVIVAL WEEK.

NOVEMBER 1ST TO 6TH.

**Monday**—Public Meeting in Mansion House.

**Tuesday**—Dramatic performance in Abbey Theatre.

**Wednesday**—Concert in Abbey Theatre.

**Saturday**—Ceilidh in Mansion House.

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The first drill at the New Hall will be on Tuesday, 12th October, commencing at 8.30 sharp.

Programme for week in future will be—  
Monday at 8, N.C.O.'s Class.  
Tuesday at 8.30, Semaphore Class and Company Drill.

Wednesday, Target Practice and Lectures.  
Thursday at 8.30, Ambulance Class.  
Friday, Cumann na mBan will meet at our rooms at 8.30 o'clock.

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